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Learnings from the USA: secondary transitions for students with special educational needs, evidence-based practices and predictors of postschool success

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Abstract

This keynote presentation will focus on outcomes for youth with disabilities in the USA and the in-school predictors of positive postschool outcomes (Mazzotti et al., 2016; 2021). The in-school predictors of positive postschool outcomes provide a framework for teachers, schools, and community service providers that can be used to develop, improve, and evaluate secondary transition programs and practices to help ensure students with disabilities are effectively prepared for adult life. This keynote will include an (a) overview of postschool outcomes for youth with disabilities from the USA perspective; (b) considerations related to collaboration and fragmented systems; (c) why teachers, schools, and community service providers should consider the predictors of postschool success; (d) considerations for implementing the predictors across the continuum; and (e) resources and questions.

Bio

Valerie L. Mazzotti, PhD is a Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Special Education in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas. Dr. Mazzotti is affiliated with the Kansas University Center on Disabilities. Dr. Mazzotti's research focuses on four areas, including interagency collaboration, self-determination interventions and supports, college and career readiness for students with disabilities, and secondary transition evidence-based practices and predictors of postschool success. Dr. Mazzotti has received grant funding from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS). Dr. Mazzotti has published one book focused on building collaborative partnerships between youth with disabilities and their families and school/community partners, over 18 book chapters, and over 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals. She has accumulated over \$29 million in external funding as PI or Co-PI. She serves as Co-Editor for the peer-reviewed journal, Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals and is a Past President of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition.